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How to Beat the Reds

THE PERFECT METHOD of dealing with communist intrusion into the western hemisphere is the one demonstrated by the United States government in Guatemala in 1954. We hope you read the sixth chapter of our series on the central intelligence agency with close attention Friday, for it revealed with bright clarity why this country succeeded in booting the communist government of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman out of Guatemala swiftly and smoothly instead of ruinously stumbling around as it was later to do in Cuba.

However stupidly the CIA may have mishandled the expedition to the Cuban Bay of Pigs, its performance in Guatemala was perfect. It began by discovering that a shipload of communist war materials from Czechoslovakia had been started on its way to Arbenz in Guatemala, in defiance of the Monroe doctrine.

Arbenz' anti-communist neighbors were already uneasy over the likelihood that he might move against one or more of them, and it was clear that, once the communist weapons reached him, he would undertake a campaign to take charge of Central America.

Allen W. Dulles, then the head of CIA, told the National Security council he was sure this was what the arms shipment would be used for; and from that point on, the Eisenhower administration took over.

Dulles had informed the National Security council that there was a small anti-communist Guatemalan army, under command of Col. Carlos Castillo Armas, hiding out in the Honduran jungle, hoping to get help from the United States so that it could take on Arbenz and the Communists.

Within a week the Washington government flew a lush supply of pistols, rifles and machine guns to Castillo, and provided him also with a couple of overaged bombers. So Castillo invaded Guatemala, Arbenz' army, generally anti-Communist, refused to fight for him, and the communist strong pole in Guatemala dissolved.

The moral of this story is that the United States government, because it acted quickly and decisively, won a quick and decisive victory over communism. It has checked its nails and waited to see what would happen. It's a lesson that should